Play & Learning Newsletter

25th – 29th January 2021

Sly, foolish, trusted, bakery, leap, twirl, lasso, brave

Wonder words to use with your child:

We met another gingerbread character this week – and oh what a character she was! With a leap and a twirl she created some cool moves whilst saving herself from that sly old fox. She certainly inspired the children into creating their own moves and the discussion around whether she would/wouldn’t get eaten by the fox (before we read the story) was full of interesting thoughts about what might happen.

This is the final week of our gingerbread theme and we have been delighted with the children’s recall of the stories we have told, plus the great use of language involved in all the different activities and experiences that they have engaged in. The week ended with the children working in groups to create their own versions of a gingerbread story using a story map with pictures to record their ideas. It was lovely to hear them use these to tell the group’s stories to the rest of the children. We had the tale of The Gingerbread Cat and another one called The Gingerbread Dog, and a different version of the Gingerbread Girl, all with happy endings. Great story tellers in the making!

Other highlights this week include further imaginative creations using wooden log construction set continuing with the children’s fascination with the pretend candles. We have seen castles and palaces – and a stage for dancing being created. Their ideas and ingenuity in use of the resources never ceases to amaze. There has been construction role play in the sand tray with use of guttering for transporting sand from one place to another, washing animals in the water tray and printing using a selection of different resources and different sized gingerbread man cutters (the baby one was the favourite)

 ***Sounds and Letters/language focus:***

 This week the children have been introduced to Metal Mike, our pre-school robot. Metal Mike obviously talks in a robot voice which means that he breaks words up into the sounds that they are made of. The children then have to work out what he is saying. This is great for supporting their development of being able to blend sounds together to hear what the word is – an essential skill in learning to read.

The starfish have been playing games with instruments, listening to the sound (but not being able to see the instrument that is making it) and then finding an instrument that matches that sound. Not as easy as it seems but super for encouraging careful listening skills,

Ideas to support your child at home:

The children have loved making up different versions of The Gingerbread Man story, using the same sequence of events but changing characters and what happens at the end. Doing this sort of storytelling with your child is great for not only developing their experiences of story creating but more importantly their language skills and vocabulary banks. It is also a lovely thing to do together as sit often creates a lot of giggles with silly adaptions of stories they know well.

If your child is a reluctant story creator then adapting a traditional tale is a good way of encouraging them to have a go at this. E.g. What could we have instead of 3 little pigs? Dinosaurs? Puppies? Unicorns? What might their houses be made of? There is no wrong answer with this – go with whatever their imagination comes up with!